

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 17 has been cancelled with traverse. Claim 15 has been amended to delete the functionalized novolaks resins for the (i) component.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of Claims 1-4 and 6-14 and believe that Claims 15 and 16 are also allowable for reasons presented below.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112(1)

This rejection is moot since Claim 17 has been cancelled.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 15 and 16 have been rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,689,534 (Oda et al.). The Office Action argues that Polymer F-2 in Example 2 of Oda et al. is functionalized by replacing the hydroxyl group with an ester group. To overcome this rejection, Claim 15 has been amended as noted above. Thus, Applicants believe that the anticipation rejection should be withdrawn.

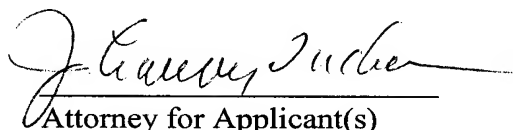
Claim 17 has also been rejected as anticipated by Oda et al. This rejection is also moot since Claim 17 has been cancelled.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 17 has also been rejected as unpatentable over Oda et al. This rejection is also moot since Claim 17 has been cancelled.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Early action to that end is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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